

**INTERVIEW OF CARL AND DOROTHY LIEPE  
BY  
JOHN AND HELEN BRANIFF**

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(Carl, tell me what year were you born and where?)

Well, I was born in 1911, in the old house up the street.

(What do you mean up the street? Where would that be?)

Well, on Cologne Ave. Just a mile coming from Rte. 30.

(Where did you go to school Carl?)

I went to school mostly right across the street from my home and when I was in fourth grade I went to the school across from the Irishman's Pub. That was the old two room school. I went to school down there for three years I guess.

(That was located on the corner of Aloe and Cologne Ave or rather between the railroads wasn't it?)

Yes, between the Reading and the Penna. Railroads. At that time, of course, the Germania Fruit Growers was where we went to buy our candies and cookies.

(Was that right next to the school?)

Practically, yes.

(Tell me, as a young man were all the roads paved around here?)

None of them were paved John,

(How about the White Horse Pike?)

No, the White Horse Pike wasn't paved either. That was a gravel road. Up until the time they put the cement down there was no tar roads there was just gravel roads, all the roads were gravel.

(Have you any idea when they paved the road?)

I think it was in 1921.

(How about Egg Harbor, did that have paved roads?)

I'm not sure John, because I used to go once in a while to Egg Harbor with the folks in a horse and wagon and I don't think there were any paved roads in there at that time when I was a kid.

(How about in Wintertime?)

Well, in the wintertime I don't know what most of the streets were like because we stayed home.

(You didn't have any sleighs with horses or anything like that?)

No, we didn't have any sleighs. I don't think there were any sleighs in the neighborhood that I know of. I don't remember any anyway.

(How did you get your mail delivered?)

You had to go to the Cologne Post Office. At that time it was on the Reading Railroad at Aloe Street and Cologne Avenue.

(Did you, as a child, have any deliveries at all at the house?)

Yes, we had the butcher and, I don't think the baker came around until later.

(Did they have sleighs?)

No, horse and wagon.

(How about when it snowed?)

If it snowed hard you didn't get any service that was all, you waited until it got lower. And of course on the farm we had our own pork and a cow.

(When you went to school what kind of games did you children play?)

I don't really remember John. I don't know if we really played many games at all. We just played around the buildings and all and just played in the dirt.

(Did you play anything that looked like baseball?)

No, we never played anything like baseball till we went to school. For one thing I had very few playmates. There was nobody around to play with. I used to play with some of the children of folks who came to pick blackberries. My dad had this place in blackberries and I played with some of those children. I don't think we played anything in particular though.

(Did you play tag at all?)

Yes, we played tag or hoop.

(How about bean bag, did you play that?)

No, we never played that.

(Remember a game where you took the broom stick and cut off about six inches and sharpened both ends then lay it down on the ground and take a short stick about three foot of the same broom stick and hit the point? It went up in the air when you hit it like a baseball?)

No, we never did anything like that.

(In other words you didn't have any of these so called city games?)

No, not that I know of.

(When you were a young child and they took you to church festivals did they have any games there or carnivals? What did they have in a way like that?)

Not much John. The only thing we had was the Atlantic County Fair in Egg Harbor.

(What did they have there? Do you remember the rides you had there?)

Well they had the Ferris wheel and the doggem cars but I wasn't that young then either. The families, a number of them from around here, would get the horse and wagon and pile the kids in and go to Catawba on the river and we'd play there.

(Let me ask you Carl, did your father take you into Atlantic City in those days when you were real young?)

No.

(How old were you when you first got to Atlantic City?)

I was probably sixteen or seventeen when I got to Atlantic City. Before that we didn't have much transportation.

(How did you go in by train?)

No, by that time, when I did go, I went with some of the young fellows that had a car, a Model T.

(How was Atlantic City in those days?)

Well, it wasn't a Honky Tonk Town at that time of course. We used to go to the Pier and places like that. We used to go to the dime a dance places. The trolleys were still on the streets then too.

(Did you go to any of the beauty shows, the pageants?)

Yes, from 1934 on, yes.

(It was quite a thing to do in those days wasn't it?)

We used to have a friend who lived in Atlantic City and we'd go down there and go to the movies. At that time though we used to watch them building Convention Hall. That was 1929 I think.

(That is an old building then. What else do you remember of that time Carl anything in particular or outstanding? Were there any disasters, any hurricanes or fires or anything?)

Not that I remember John.

(Did you have an awful draught here on the farms by any chance? Anything memorable?)

No, as far as I know we didn't seem to have the draughts that have occurred in later years.

(Tell me did you have any travelling circuses come in here?)

No. I don't remember any. Some of them may have been in Atlantic City I don't know. Not in this area that came a lot later.

(During high school years did you play any games at all then?)

I'm sorry John but I didn't go to high school. When my grade school days were over I had to go to work on the farm and I didn't do any high school at all. Of course later on when I got into business I took a lot of short courses at Rutgers and all to help me out.

(What kind of a farm did your father have?)

Vegetable farm. Vegetables and berries. He was large in black berries. As a matter of fact, right where we are at now this was all black berry fields. From the property line up to the house was all black berries fields. All the neighborhood children used to pick them.

(What happened to the black berry business?)

I don't know. My dad originated this black diamond black berry that we used to have here. It was a very good shipper and that's the reason they used that a lot. I don't know what happened to the black berry business. I don't know if you can buy the black berries any more.

(It's hard to buy a box of black berries, maybe once every season you see black berries around. Black berry pies or tarts you don't see any more or anything.)

We used to have quite a few goose berries and things like that.

(Carl, I don't even see currants on the market anymore! Did you people raise anything like that?)

We didn't raise them particularly for sale. We raised goose berries and black berries for sale mostly. Some raspberries, currants, we had a couple of bushels I know and my dad liked that.

(Can you buy any of those around here? I guess you can't get the children to pick them now can you? Are they hard to pick?)

Black berries and goose berries all have thorns.

(What do you do with goose berries?)

What we used to do, we'd put on a pair of gloves, leather. The goose berries would hang along the stem. Then you just take your hand and pull them off leaves and all, strip it bear. Then we

had a fanning machine. We would put the gooseberries in, blow the leaves out and the goose berries would come rolling down.

(In my business they vacuumed it out. They passed along a belt, there was a suction here and the lite stuff went up in the air and they just passed along and got all sucked up in the vacuum.)

This was hand operated John.

(That's interesting. Isn't it strange how these fruits are disappearing from the market?)

Yes, you can still buy gooseberry plants. I'm going to have some in my new garden.

(I don't blame you. What happened to all your black berries, did you have to rip them out because there was no business?)

Yes, there was no market for them anymore. Why I have no idea. I don't even know if there are any or very few of that original black diamond the one my dad developed from a seedling around that I know of.

(Do you still have a bush of it?)

No, I don't. I wish I did.

(That's too bad. Was it a very seedy berry?)

Of course, most black berries are seedy to an extent but these were quite large and rather juicy.

(Did they lean to the Loganberry at all?)

More on the Loganberry side yes. But it was a rear dark berry, black.

(You can't buy loganberries either can you?)

No, I think there is a lot of that stuff out west but they can't ship them that far.

(Isn't it strange no one around here bothers with them? You only see them in cans now?)

I don't know what the story is.

(In other words then, most of your business then was really in black berries and truck farming?)

Yes.

(Was there anything you specialized in, in truck farming?)

No, mostly, I think the biggest part was in sweet potatoes.

(The real Jersey Sweets?)

The Old Jersey Sweet Potato, yes.

(The ones that are hard to find now also?)

Nobody wants them. They want the sloppy ones, the yams.

(Tell me, why did they go into disuse?)

I don't know why. I think one of the reasons was that the old Jerseys didn't keep as well and didn't ship as well. The yams can take more of a beating.

(I was told by a farmer that raises Jersey sweets, and I'd like to have you bear me out in this, that you don't dare dig them too soon, that they have to ripen in the ground.

Yes, they have to cure.

(They also said the less you handle them the better off you are.

That's right, they are not adaptable to the type of machinery we have today see. What we used to do when we had the sweet potatoes; we would plow them out with a horse plow. It was a special type plow and the mull board was like fingers so that some of the dirt could filter through. After that you had them plowed out then you had to go along and pick the whole bunch up and lay it on top of the hill to let them dry out and then you would go along and pick them all by hand and put them all in baskets and you didn't throw them into baskets either.

(In other words you let them dry off on top of the ground. How long did that take Carl, provided it didn't rain?)

Usually plowed them out in the morning and then around noon time you'd do them.

(The same day?)

Oh yes, the same day.

(That sweet potato farmer we have down the street, I think he leaves them lay out overnight and the next day, in the afternoon he picks them.)

Well that's alright if it isn't too damp or cold overnight.

(I've kept his sweet potatoes up until, oh, I bought them in Oct. and had them until the beginning of June. I also noticed that it's not smart to buy the small ones. The bigger they are the better they seem to keep. The small ones dry up quickly. The large ones, there's so much to them it takes them longer to dry up. )

Yes, the smaller ones do dry up quicker.

(Is there anything to keep them from drying up like that?)

No, not really, if the humidity could be regulated. They have been able to do it but they don't do it commercially though.

(It's alright to keep them humid then?)

Yes.

(Tell us something else Carl. What churches did you have?)

There were no churches in the neighborhood. The only thing we did have was a Sunday school in the school building. That started the German Sunday school in 1912.

(I thought that was the English Sunday school. The German Sunday School goes back, they said, to the eighteen hundreds.)

Maybe I'm wrong about that then. I didn't have anything to do with the German Sunday school.

(They spoke primarily German in this vicinity then?)

Well, this was a German settlement. As a matter of fact that's how my grandparents got there because this was all German here in Egg Harbor and they saw the ad in a German paper in Chicago.

(You were right Carl, the German Sunday school was in 1910 and the English Sunday school was from 1912 to 1916.)

I just got in on the tall end of that. Before that I was too young.

(You said your grandfather came from Germany, where about in Germany do you remember?)

Osnabruck, in Hanover Province.

(That's Northern Germany?)

Yes.

(They came from Germany to where?)

Well, of course they migrated to New York and him and his brother came over and they went to Chicago.

(That's strange I wonder why?)

I really don't know why they went to Chicago. It was a growing city I suppose at that time.

(What year was this, have you any idea?)

In 1858 I think. Then my grandfather was a shoe maker. He worked at that business in Chicago until he had enough money to send for his sweetheart to come over and they got married here in the United States.

(When did he go to New Orleans?)

That date I don't really know.

(It had to be after 1865. It had to be after the Civil War otherwise he wouldn't have gotten down there probably Eh?)

I don't know exactly what time it was because one of my Uncles and one of my Aunts were here...

(I think it was before the Civil War really, because they came here in 1864. The Civil War was in 1865 so I was before the Civil War. You don't know why they went to New Orleans, do you?)

No, I think just pioneers, you know, moving. I think they went down on the river boat.

(Maybe they went down to Bourbon Street?)

I don't know where they settled down there but, anyway, one of my Uncles was born down there and one of my Aunts were born down there I think. Then they had some sort of plague. Anyway they came back to Chicago because everyone was sick and they got out of there.

(They went back to Chicago then?)

Yes, they went back to Chicago and he went back into the shoemaker business there. I suppose he worked for some one. I guess because his brother was there he went back to Chicago. His brother was in the coal and lumber business. He started the coal and lumber business. I guess his brother had a little better start. He married into the Waterman family. The fountain pen people. They were quite well off. Then really, I think the reason they came to New Jersey was that, my uncle, the one born down there in Chicago, he had Asthma and the Doctors said he should go in the Pine Area where there is an abundance of Pine woods for his Asthma. Of course they looked it up in the German papers in Chicago. I know in Mullica Township, at that time, the tax assessor had a copy of the letter that my grandfather wrote inquiring about farm land etc.

(He still has it?)

I think it's still there in Mullica Township. We have a copy of it.

(That's interesting. Tell me, do you know what they paid for the land?)

I have no idea on that. Money was never mentioned in any of that. I don't suppose it was too much. I think these were all twenty acre farms at that time. They bought on original twenty acres. They came and cleared and cut down a lot of trees and made themselves a log cabin at the beginning. That was in 1864.

(We heard that the land at that time when it was sold it was sold for more money than it was twenty years ago. You could buy it cheaper twenty years ago than you could when it was bought originally by these farm people. That they paid, in Germany, something like \$200 an acre for it in an ad company. I even said, "My God, how could they ever pay it off in those days? And later on it was selling for twenty and thirty dollars an acre here twenty years ago. We bought some for thirty dollars an acre.)

I have no idea on that. I've never heard anybody say. People weren't interested in selling maybe twenty years ago but now in 1934 you couldn't give it away, particularly because you had all you could do to pay your taxes really during the depression.



(That is probably when they were talking about really before the Second World War. That's when I think it was really cheap. I saw it advertised in New York in Strouds agency had the catalogue and my gosh you could buy a hundred acre farm down here for \$5000 you know it was unbelievable?)

It's going to go back to that because the Pineland Commissions are just making our land valueless.

(It will never really go all that way that's for sure, don't you think?)

It won't be worth anything to anybody soon because you have to have so many acres in order to build, all that sort of thing. I just wonder what the Pineland Commission is going to do to the farmer.

(I don't think hers going to help him much that's for sure. There is one outlet though. Put sewers in and then you can sell it for lots huh?)

Yes, that's the only way you can develop it. If you have farm land it's supposed to stay farm land though I think.

(Yes, but eventually they are going to have to put sewers in and that will be the end of it. Then they can keep you to one acre or so but it will come. It has to, I mean it has to go somewhere, otherwise everything the other side of the Parkway will have a house every foot or so.)

Of course there are still people with ten and fifteen acre plots who are in good shape because they would be little estates. They will sell for big money, no question about it. As long as you have a housing shortage. You seem to always have a housing shortage, I don't know why, I don't think that's going to happen or that it will bother you too much.

(Were most of the people, do you know, Lutheran?)

Originally they were yes, German Lutheran.

(Either Catholic or Lutheran, one or the other. There wasn't much choice in the old days was there? North Germany was Lutheran and South Germany was Catholic?)

The Germans started the Moravians in Egg Harbor too.

(There are a lot of off shoots off of that I believe aren't there of the I Lutheran faith, minor organizations of it?)

Yes, there were.

(I think they taught German in the schools here too didn't they up until the First World War?)

Oh no, when Carl's mother went to school, she said she had half day German and half day English but that's over a hundred years ago.

(Strange thing, when we first came out here they all spoke German a mile a minute. Egg Harbor Dutch, they called it.)

Yes, they have a story about that John: The Egg Harbor German. "The coohat over the fenz could jump and the ginsa Cabbage cadamaged."

(Half English half German. It's like they used to say "Ca cal da roach.")

That's the way in Egg Harbor, they got it mixed up. Of course originally it was all German but then with inter-marriage and all it got mixed in. When we were at the end of the line and Cologne Ave only went down as far as the fire house, it didn't go through the swamp or anything where there were big swamps. Electricity didn't come through here until 1927.

(That's something I wanted to ask you, originally do you remember your grandfather's house at all?)

Well, I remember the house, it's still there.

(What did he use, kerosene?)

No, wood stoves.

(I mean for lighting candles?)

No, kerosene as far as I know, and we used kerosene of course. We still have the little oil lamp that Carl went to bed with and believe it or not it's that "Peanuts" lamp that is so popular now.

(Getting back to the lamps and things that you used, what did you use for heating coal or wood?)

They used coal and wood both, yes.

(You had fire places I presume?)

No, we didn't have fire places. Ranges, kitchen ranges you know and other stoves. We had a heater in the cellar. It was pretty early I guess compared to some of the other folks. One reason is that my dad used to store his sweet potatoes in the cellar so he had pipes on the cellar floor and then pipes and the boards over top of that where you put your baskets.

(The nicest part of your house must have been the cellar?)

Yes, the warmest part anyway. Then we had the back portion as you know as the sun parlor John, where they used to bring them up out of the cellar and clean them there.

(Now when you say clean them just what do you mean?)

Well, they used to brush the dirt off or the sand off.

(Did you do that just before you sold then?)

Yes, just before you shipped them.

(You didn't, monkey with them otherwise?)

Oh no, you didn't disturb them. The more you disturbed them the worse it got. When you broke the skin on the potato that was bad. That was the end of it. It wouldn't last too long.

(I know they are very tricky to handle aren't they?)

Yes, they are; when they were shipped at that time they used to be all in those tall hamper baskets. We used to have to paper the baskets, we would line the basket with newspaper and have newspaper on top where you'd put the lid on. That would insulate them a little in shipping and keep them from rubbing so bad.

(I kept mine in peach baskets when I would take them. I moved them once from the time I bought them just took them and put them in a peach basket and lined it with paper. I placed them carefully in that and that was it. I didn't touch them again until we ate them. I kept them down in the cellar where it wasn't too warm and not too cool or dry, which maybe wasn't too good for them?)

No, they like a little humidity.

(You can't sprinkle them with water or anything can you?)

No, not that I know of.

(You're in deep trouble then. They probably rot?)

Yes, well I think when they shipped by train it wasn't as rough as shipping by the modern trucking companies.

(You're right, the only time they got into trouble was when they bumped the cars, when they couple them up. The trucks, they would wobble and bounce and go all over.)

The berries and everything they used to take down to where Aloe Street is now. They put them on the train for New York. Most of their products went to New York.

(Not to Philadelphia, that's strange?)

Philadelphia and New York, but mostly New York.

(When did the railroads come through do you have any idea?)

I'm not sure about that. The railroads were here before the people came to Cologne like our, this, family came to Cologne and the railroads were here. It cost five cents to go from Cologne to Egg Harbor. Uncle Herman always tells the story of his Uncle, who died a very wealthy man, always carried a twenty dollar bill and said that's all he had. Of course the conductor on the train couldn't change the twenty for the five cent fare.

(I'll tell you something funny. I tried that in New York on the trolley car that I took every morning to school. It worked only once though, the second time he handed me the change, he had it all counted out in his pocket and there it was. We had some trolley cars that were all red. They were named after the mayor because he got them in there. They were really bumpy and terrible and they were called "Red Mikes" after Mayor Mike Heyland. There was no transportation at all here between these little towns was there outside of the train?)

No, just the train that's all.

(Did that train stop at every little town?)

Yes, it would stop at Egg Harbor, Cologne, and at Pomona. That's also how you got your mail and all that.

(How about Germania, was that a lost town?)

Well Germania and Cologne were the same actually. On the Pennsylvania Line they had a sign board up there at, not a station, but a freight house and that had Germania on it. That Germania, I think, was before Cologne. There so happens that there is another Germania in New Jersey so in order to have our Post Office here, I don't know who developed this Cologne name but of course being from Cologne, Germany, that's where it came from, they used Cologne for a Post Office. It was on the Reading Line at that time.

(Was the Post Office always Cologne?)

Yes, it was.

(Oh I see, then when they built the new building they just put the name Cologne on it, in other words there never was a Germania Post Office?)

No, that's right, there never was a Germania Post Office.

(Wasn't that Post Office on the other side of the track at one time?)

It was on this side of the track where that for sale sign is.

(Right, then they moved it across?)

No, they moved it to where it is now.

(In other words, it was always this side of the tracks?)

Yes, this side of the tracks and when they moved it they moved it to where the Post Office is now because it was the Cologne Hatchery and the man who had the Cologne Hatchery was the Post Master.

(They also told me that is when Germania lost out. When they moved the Post Office from this side to the other side of the track, that's when Germania really ceased. Actually that should

never have been Cologne, that should always have been Germania. They moved the Post Office over there and that is how it happened. It is a very interesting thing about the loss of the towns.)

Actually there was no town.

(There wasn't any at all?)

No, there's never been a town. There was a Germania Fruit Grower's Union a general store but there was never a town. At the corner where the Bob White was, that's where they stopped to get their liquid refreshments, their beer etc. It was like a hotel. You could only go so many miles with a horse and wagon. Actually there has never been a town.

(There's not even a town in Cologne today is there? You've got all there is Bob White and the gas station, It didn't exist really.)

That's all, actually Cologne was just a name of an area. Where it stops and where it starts nobody knows, just a post office name.

(If they ever get a Galloway Post Office that their fighting for we'll lose Cologne and all those little towns in between too. You know they are talking about trying to get a Galloway Post Office. Was there a town that you know of years ago between Cologne and Pomona? Is there a little town in there the name of something?)

Not that I know of. My dad used to go to Pomona to school and I'm sure he would have mentioned it.

(What is between Pomona and Absecon anything?)

Pinehurst. That's new there that's not old there. It's more of a development.

(There's no old name of an old town that was in there?)

People would say they live in Pinehurst but there was nothing there other than the name.

(That was actually an old name?)

Oh yes.

(Then there actually was a place like Germania?)

Yes, but I don't believe there was a town there for the railroad turned so there was no railroad stop there I think it was a development prior to the 1930 period before the depression. It was probably a developer who went in there and cut the streets through. Because of so many pine trees he called it Pinehurst.

(The thing that puzzles me about Germania for example is; you have the motel, the Bob White, The Grange, the Fire Department, and that other thing next to the Fire House?)

The Leider Kranz, that was a singing society

(And they are all called Germania? There is a freezer place there too?)

Yes, but that isn't old. That wasn't there many years ago. The Leider Kranz Hall that's over at Smithville was alongside of the fire house. Then right here on Cologne Ave. between here and Aloe Street, it's a house now but that also was called Arrow Social Hall. That didn't have Cologne or Germania's name. There was a bunch of so called musicians got together. In other words that's where they made their fun.

(Was it all men or was it coed? I was wondering about socializing?)

No, it was family. You went with your wife and your children and your baby coach.

(Did they have beer and wine and things?)

Yes.

(Was it served there or did you bring it?)

No they usually would tap a keg. They would play cards. Cards were very big.

(Was it a fairly decent sized place?)

Well it is a house now. It's on the left. It was always that size.

(Were you ever in the Leider Kranz?)

In the Leider Kranz, yes.

(Was that the same thing just a singing society?)

Well everything was there. The Grange used to meet there and all.

(At the Leider Kranz? Before they built their own place? Did they also have drinks and everything?)

Yes, before they built their own place. Yes, they had drinks. We used to go there to dances.

(How did you join that society?)

We never joined it. What I can remember of the Leider Kranz, it wasn't much of a singing society. I think Henk and those fellows were originally in on it. When I was a young teenager, I don't know who sponsored them, but they used to have dances. The part of the Leider Kranz that is down in Smithville is the old part and there was like a ball room on the back. They added that on. You had the small part first and then the other.

(Tell me something. you might be able to tell me the truth on this. Did they have here such things as masquerade balls back in the twenties? Because that suggests to me where we came from in Staten Island there was a German Hall and it was a singing society. They used to rent out the hall. Every spring and early January and February they had these masquerade balls before Lent. They were called the German Club Rooms up there. Do you remember them?)

We had masquerades but I don't know, of anything there like that. I think if you had someone in the neighborhood with a lot of leadership. There was a girl in the area who loved to supervise plays. They would give plays and that sort of thing.

(At the Leider Kranz?)

No, at the Arrow mainly. The place has always had a stage, It would be if you had someone who had the leadership to do it. We always had minstrels too.

(Carl what did you people do for Christmas as young children do you remember?)

Well we always had a big tree and a garden under the tree. We have some wooden animals that Carl's dad carved. He carved all different kinds of animals out of wood.

(What did this garden consist of?)

Well, he made a lot of things himself but usually we had carried it on a long while. I used to make gardens like that too. We would have a platform and we would go into the woods and gather moss off the trees for grass. We'd have little twigs we would stick in. Most of the time we didn't buy anything. It would all be handmade. We would make little houses. He carved animals and things like that. In our house, the front room, which was the parlor, was separate from the living room, dining room, and kitchen. The front room was the parlor you know. When I was a kid, still believing in Santa Claus, that room got closed off right after Thanksgiving, that was the end of it. You never got in there until Christmas. His mother made candy and cookies. That was her gift to the rest of the family, a box of cookies and some homemade candy.

(That's right, I believe in that. Tell me did you also hang up your stockings before Christmas?)

No, we never did anything with the stockings. We visited all over the neighborhood, the whole Christmas Holiday, from Christmas to New Year. We walked all through the neighborhood.

(Of course you probably had cookies at each house you stopped at along the way?)

Oh, yes, sure.

(What did you have, a cider or- They didn't have Coca-Cola and Pepsi in those days did they?)

No, I don't know if the children had cider or not. What we had most of the time John, I don't know if it was the custom just around here or what, we had sugar wine, the kids all had it.

(What is sugar wine?)

You'd get about a table spoon full of wine in a glass of water, and a spoonful of sugar stirred into it and that is what you had.

(You mean colored water?)

They called it sugar wine. Only a small amount of wine. It had a wine flavor.

(Did you make your own wine?)

Most all of them did, my dad did.

(What kind did he make?)

My dad made mostly grape wine.

(Any blackberry?)

He made blackberry, he made wild cherry and he made peach wine. I know they are the ones he made while here. When he moved down the street here after we were married he made wine out of most everything I guess. He had pine-needle wine. It was good.

(Sounds like the one the Greeks made of some kind of rosin? It was terrible.

This wine tasted like gin, gin flavor, of course it is red in color.

(And they made it out of pine needles?)

Pine needles, yes. He used to chop them up. I think he even had some Cedar dredges in there too.

(That is a cheap product isn't it? You better find that recipe. You make enough of that you could put it into your car and drive it around too. Tell me Carl, what kind of cakes and cookies did they have back then?)

Now you have me, but they were butter cookies I think, from years back because, they had their own cows and made their own butter. Butter wasn't to them what butter is to us today. Springerle was a popular cookie in Germany. Everyone had their own chickens and therefore we had the eggs. Momma made a cookie she called a jumble but I don't know what it was. She was the best cookie baker.

(Did she make Lebkuchen?)

I don't remember her calling any by that name.

(How about Pfeffernusse?)

Not too much Pfeffernusse. She was more of a sugar cookie baker. Carl's people were very much on the modern side. They always had the newest things. They had the first truck, they had the first tractor. They were hard workers. They always looked ahead. He was one of the first Blueberry growers in the State of New Jersey. They had to stop growing them here because when the electric came through the air plane could no longer come and dust. If your berries aren't sprayed and dusted you can't ship them. They get worms and you can't send a worm to market. They will just reject them.

(How do you dust them?)

Now they do it all with airplanes.



(I mean the small bushes, do they spray them or what?)

Yes, you would have to have a duster or sprayer you know.

(I wonder how they dust them up here. Where we are, I don't think they dust those berries?)

Maybe they don't dust them, that's the reason they don't ship them either. Most of the berries up your way are "Come pick your own". They wouldn't be allowed to ship them in case there would be a worm in them. There is a lot of work to berries. Berries have to be trimmed and tied up and sprayed and dusted. You have to like to pick. The Liepes in particular are excellent pickers. I'm from the city and when I first started to pick they said don't put anything in the box you wouldn't put in your own mouth. That's how I learned to be a good picker. If something falls in that bucket now when I'm picking I pick it out because even though I'm not going to eat those berries it is in the back of my mind.

(Did you pick all these?)

Yes, I picked them today

(Was there anything around like the typical German beer garden type thing with sausages and German food? Like a restaurant.)

Fairchild's, at the Egg Harbor Fair.

(Tell us about the fair?)

I'm not sure when it started, around the eighteen hundreds I think.

(Did they close off the street?)

Where they make the monuments and the vaults. You had to pay to get in the fair. They had it all fenced off. Alongside of the A & P that was all the Egg Harbor Fair. They had an immense poultry building where they make the monuments now. The people put their best poultry in there. When Carl's father went into the nursery business he always had a nursery display. That was interesting too how his dad got into the nursery business. He decided to put this hedge out front with Spruce trees up there. He had a lot left over so he lined them out and started selling them as Xmas trees. Then he started buying different other trees. That is' how he got into the nursery business.

(Not these nature trees you see growing around here?)

No, it was the common Xmas tree you would buy, the Douglas fir, the Norway spruce, like that. Then he started different kinds of trees. Then the people from Atlantic City started getting cars. People like Captain Young, who had the Million Dollar Pier, would drive out and they would put all these big trees in tubs on the pier. In later years there were deliveries but way back then when these were the rich people they came out in their touring cars. Half a dozen baskets of fish with them, to hand around to the neighbors. Those people had their own chauffeurs and house-boys. This was before the depression days.

(Your father then, wasn't in this nursery business in Europe?)

That was my grandfather, he was a shoemaker. My father was a farmer, then in berries, then in the nursery.

(Where did your father go to school Carl?)

Pomona, except when he had a sister who lived in Egg Harbor opposite the A & P and then he stayed with her the one Winter in Egg Harbor and went to school there.

(Your father was born here?)

Yes, he was born across the street over here half a mile away. Carl was born, not in this house, but on this property. Carl had never moved from 1911 to 1980. Then his go-cart and the things his father made for him before he was born were still up in that attic. You can imagine moving. It cost us four hundred dollars to move and the moving van didn't even go out onto the street. You can imagine the things we had to move.

(Your father started out as a truck farmer then?)

Yes, he started clearing out this upper portion when he was fourteen, chopping the stumps out and all, clearing the land in 1875.

(When they bought this, did they buy forty acres here or what?)

Yes, he bought the twenty acres first and then additional twenty acres.

(It was all woods at the time, I presume?)

Yes, it was all forest. Of course it started on the far corner, that would be close to home at that time, from his folk's home. I don't think he bought the land, I don't suppose he could have. I think the folks bought it for him and he started the clearing etc. I can remember when we would go over around Gravelly Run, he would tell me how he had pulled the logs from here over to that saw mill at Abbotts saw mill over there.

(At Gravelly Run?)

Yes, that was the closest saw mill and they would go through the woods to go over there.

(How would they get through the swamp?)

I suppose they went around it. They went miles out of their way to dodge the swamp. They went all the way around the race track, around the back.

(My, it must have taken them half a day to get there?)

Yes, it did.

(What did they do put them on a wagon?)

Yes, on a wagon, with a team of horses and go through the sand roads to the mill.

(What did he do, have it cut for lumber for himself?)

Oh yes, to build a house.

(Then he didn't cut anymore?)

No, they only cut what they used.

(What did they do with the rest of the stuff, burn it?)

Well I suppose so. A lot of the pine, they cut that for lumber for additional buildings. The oak I guess they burned.

(I'm sure there were a lot of trees on the twenty acres?)

The woods that is back there now is still the original woods from him then.

(It was never cleared?)

No, it was never cleared.

(How much of it did he clear, about twenty acres between the two?)

It was twenty eight acres. It was all cleared by hand. He didn't clear it all. The latter part of it, I can remember, he hired fellows to clear it. They would clear land for twenty five dollars and acre. With an ax and a grubbing hoe.

(And cut it up too I suppose huh?)

Right, it was wintertime work. They might make two acres in the winter.

(That is a tough way to make twenty five dollars?)

Yes, but twenty five dollars went some place then too.

(At that time my grandfather was paying his bricklayers seventy five cents per day and fifty cents for the hod carriers. That's not an hour either, that's per day. That is not an eight hour day. That is from sun rise to sun set.)

My grandfather, as I said, was a shoemaker, when he came to the farm here he still made shoes. He used to make the shoes, take as many as he could carry, get on the train, go to Philadelphia, and sell them.

(Can you figure out how many miles it is to Gravelly Run from here?)

There is a saw mill must beyond that on the left going to Abbott's funeral parlor, towards Somers Point. Back in there is a big sand wash where a couple of kids were drowned.

(On the Abbotts property, what is that creek there? Is it Gravelly Run? There is a ship in there did you know that? The Night Hawk. I've stood on her deck but it is part of the bank today. At low tide you can see the deck. I went in there with the present owner. Do you think I can find that thing again now? I couldn't see it but I guess it was high tide when I looked again. If you stand back you can see the shape of the ship. Of course the dirt and sand has come over the deck. The only thing left now is a little bit of the ribbing and some of the deck stays. He didn't even know the boat was there.)

(Tell me more about this trip. How many miles is it. It must be about five or six miles at least?)

I imagine John, it would come out to close to ten miles the way they had to go.

(It would take them all day to make a round trip.)

Yes, it was a day's trip.

(How far could a team like that go in a day with a load like that?)

I don't know how far they could go but I know they went to market to Atlantic City from here and back. I guess that was a long fifteen miles too because it wasn't straight down the White Horse Pike either. They said they used to cover the horses with burlap because of the mosquitos. They would just brush and the horses would be all blood. In the salt marshes. That must have really been a task to go to market. They went over on a corduroy road originally.

(When you say corduroy do you mean metal?)

No, logs, logs laid side by side.

(That's across what is now the Causeway?)

Yes, but there was no causeway then. It started in Pleasantville. It was the "Old Turnpike" in Pleasantville. It went from Atlantic City to Pleasantville.

(Did the White Horse Pike exist to that point then?)

No it did not.

(How did you get there then?)

Well, it went to Absecon. They called it the County Road then. That went as far as Absecon and from Absecon you would go up Shore Road to Pleasantville. You could take a sail boat to Brigantine. We were talking to a man who is a carpenter, his father was a carpenter too. He would go to Absecon on the train and take a sail boat to Brigantine with his carpenter tools. Absecon Bay you know.

(I'm surprised they didn't have a train that would stop to pick up the produce and take it into Atlantic City to the people, like the milk trains that used to pick up the milk.)

No, it was a late afternoon train that started around four o'clock. I can remember Carl's dad said he liked that way of shipping better than the truck. Some days the truck would be there at two p.m., the next day at three p.m. and the next day it might be twelve o'clock. Well, you didn't have your berries packed of course. It was up to the driver, up to the pick up. He always used to say, give me the day when I could hook up my horses and take it down to the train because that was prompt every day.

(I guess the Atlantic City Market wasn't that big then?)

I think at that time if there would have been half a dozen or a dozen farmers it would be quite a few. There wasn't that much in it then. Probably they were the closer farmers then than now. I suppose Pleasantville and Absecon were farms.

(Did you have that many farms in Pleasantville?)

I would imagine many years ago yes. For one you know, Starn's Shop Rite -- well Starn was a farmer in Pleasantville, well Northfield actually. Where Mr. Big is, that was all Starn's farm. They would take a load over and then coming back they would load up with cabbages and kelp and fish heads. That's what they use for fertilizer.

(Did it have to be bought?)

Some of it was bought and some was traded, just glad to get rid of it. My dad used to bring barrels of fish home. Not edible fish, heads and all.

(Did your father or grandfather do much trading do you know?)

No, not that I know of. I think grandfather sold his shoes for money and bought more leather to make more.

(How about during depression, did he do any trading then your father, when money was scarce?)

No, I don't think so John. As far as during depression, we ate just as well.

(You ate just as well, but you had to make money for your taxes?)

Well, the taxes were so little though as a matter of fact, in 1934 when we took over the farm, the forty acres, our taxes were sixty seven dollars.

(Yes, but don't forget, in 1934 the average person in New York City was making six hundred dollars a year.)

But, we were selling a product to people with money. Not all the people lost their money. There were still a lot of wealthy people. We were in the nursery business at that time. Really times weren't great but we never knew it to be hard times.

(Did many people lose their farms during the depression?)

No, I don't think they ever foreclosed. You could go on owing taxes for years. We paid our taxes once a year up until maybe ten years ago.

(But you paid it ahead?)

No, we paid it once a year and it was past due. Nothing was ever said they were glad to get the money. In those days another thing, when my dad was in the farming business, in the winter time any of the farmers who had teams and wagons would work on the roads, hauling gravel for the roads. Of course that would come off their taxes.

(I think a lot of that went on didn't it?)

Yes, it was more or less a barter you might say. Your labor for your taxes. That was a good system. In the wintertime you know the farmer wasn't busy so he had plenty of time and he paid for his taxes that way.

(We used to get a lot of the farmers come in the wintertime and work in our tobacco sheds. Then the first time the ground got a little soft they were gone. You didn't see them until the following fall. You didn't need them during the summer though because you were growing the product that lay in the warehouse.)

I understand that is what happens to the modular homes. This home was made out in Tine Grove Penna. The farmers into these modular home factories and they get all these parts and pieces made ahead in the winter when they don't have much work. One of the men that worked on the house connected it there.

(You know, if you figure it out, they cut their stuff some way, you cut ninety or two hundred pieces running length and four pieces this length. They just keep stacking them up and they know whether or what plans they go into and there is nothing to it really?)

That is the reason they can sell a house like this at a more reasonable price than having a stock house

(You know, people on a farm, always by tradition, were better able to live than urban people.)

Well, we always have gardens even now and were looking forward to getting some chickens. When Paul was growing up he had a pig. It was a 4-H project. Now he has two little boys growing up and he is anxious for them to do that sort of thing too. Back in 1935 and 1936 they had this "Live At Home" program. Carl's people had gotten rid of the cows because they were so busy with the nursery business it didn't pay them. There was no longer milk pickup etc. I had two step brothers from Philadelphia come and stay with us. We had a cow and we still cultivated the nursery with the horse. They were young teenagers and they worked along with us. Just the fact that we had our own milk that we could fill up with and we made our own cottage cheese. It wasn't a cow that gave a lot of milk, rich milk. It was a Holstein. You really didn't need a lot of money.

(Tell me, in the nursery business, was it better to have a horse to cultivate or a tractor?)

Well, a horse would still be better but who could drive it? No one will walk behind a horse today.

(Why?)

They don't know how. Because you have to drive the horse and wiggle the cultivator and all that at the same time. The older fellows that did work with us were older than Carl. Those days are gone. Anything today has to be on wheels with gasoline you know. We used to feed a horse for fifteen dollars per month. You can't feed a horse for fifteen dollars a week now. All winter long you had to feed your horse and you could put your tractor up for the winter. Of course they cost a lot of money too. We haven't bought one for a long time now.

(Did you raise anything else besides chicken, pigs, and cows? Goats maybe?)

No, we didn't have goats.

(Goats weren't very popular down here were they?)

No they weren't.

(I wonder why?)

Goats are not German.

(I understand they can be poisoned too by wild cherries very easily, and some other things?)

Yes, and even the horses can. It's not the green leaves. It's the dry leaves. You can eat the green leaves but the dry leaves become poisonous when they dry.

(Would that actually kill a goat?)

They say it will kill a horse, so I guess if it can kill a horse it can kill a goat too.

(How could you put a goat out in the field? How do you know what that stupid thing will eat?)

Maybe they are not so stupid.

(Will they eat it?)

More than likely not, no.

(That was my argument, they told me if you get a goat it will eat things you, you have to watch it. They are stupid.)

Most of the animals are not that stupid.

(No, I guess they know what they can eat huh?)

They do, better than people lots of times.

(How is it the deer can eat the tomato plant and if I eat it I die? Or do I?)

No, you won't.

(It is a knife shaped plant right?)

Some of the knife shaped but not all the knife shaped

(It's the same family as tobacco and rhubarb and all that right?)

Well, rhubarb doesn't go into the knife shape. Potatoes, Eggplant are knife shaped.

(They are all poisonous, those leaves aren't they?)

So they say, I don't know. I never ate one. I think their body structure is different. A deer doesn't have the same organs or something. It has something to do with the Gall.

(In the early days was there a lot of German foods around in the stores do you know, like Leiderkrantz cheese or Limburger?)

Oh yes,

(Did you have regular German stores in Egg Harbor where you could buy that?)

There wasn't much else.

(What stores did you have in those days?)

Well, they were all private stores. There was no chains or anything then.

(Do you know the names of some of them?)

Well, the meat market was Colby. Schewieners too had a meat market. They were all fresh killed.

(Where were they situated in Egg Harbor?)

Colby's was where Ruth's dress shop is on Philadelphia Avenue and Schewiener's was on Cincinnati Avenue, just past where the News office is. Then there was Bock's Hardware.

(Was that later on?)

That was still in the early thirties.

(Did that become Wimberg's?)

No, where Wimberg's are was the drug store. It was a patent drug store though not a prescription drug store. Wimberg's had a drug store before a hardware store. It was a soda fountain, patent drug store. That is where you went to the ice cream parlor. The extra room in the back was the ice cream parlor. The drug store was where Ordilles is now. The one on the left not the one on the right, still is. It was Dr. Boysin and his sister. Dr. Boysin had his doctor's office in the back and his sister was the druggist.



(Tell me, did you have a harness maker in town?)

We had a wagon maker. He also worked on harnesses. Otto.

(Where was the wagon maker?)

I think it was on Atlantic Avenue. Out there near Better Built, near that neighborhood.

(What about the breweries that were in town?)

Well, I never patronized them John but, Ott's brewery was a main one. That was on Philadelphia Avenue and Beethoven I guess.

(Is that where that storage place is now?)

Yes, that was it. Campe would be the next street.

(How about some other breweries?)

Then there was one out on Darmstadt and near the Egg Harbor Cemetery, on the right before you got to the Cemetery. There was a big brick building there. Von Bossey's had a winery.

(How many breweries were there?)

As far as I know there was just the two. This wasn't much of a drinking family. If they made their own wine that was enough.

(They made their own beer too didn't they?)

No, because dad really wasn't a drinker. About once a year he would come home with a box of beer from Ott's. That was a box of twenty four bottles, I guess eight ounce bottles. They had the old Ceramic lid with rubber on you know. That case used go down in the wine cellar. I think he only got it out once or twice a year.

(Like ourselves, we go to Somers Point about three times a year and buy German beer and it goes into the special refrigerator. Once in a while Helen and I take it out. You think of how, in those days, in many ways life was so much more convenient. Everything was there, I mean fresh. The brewery was close by. The wines were homemade. Today everything comes from such a long distance. People think that they are blessed with all of them I don't think so. I think you had so much in those days.)

That and it's hard to go back to those days because the people have been oriented go go go. I mean on the farm you just stayed home period. All summer because it was all summer.

(How about beer gardens Carl, were there a lot of beer gardens around?)

No, I think there were two in Egg Harbor. One in fact was on the other side of, off the City limits, back on Duerer Street.

(Is that where Child's is now? The Old Heidelberg?)

No, not on the Pike, I mean back on Duerer Street near where the paint place is. The place up on the hill in back of Town Paint. That was a beer garden. The house on the hill was part of the beer garden. They used to run excursions from Philadelphia to Egg Harbor on the train. Egg Harbor was known as the wine center because, of course, of the wineries. I heard my dad talk about it. They used to go out to the Egg Harbor cemetery. There were people who had relatives and friends buried there. They would get Hen Grater was his name, he used to have a livery up there, and he had a horse drawn bus. He would load them up and take them out. They would stop at that beer garden before they went to the cemetery. I guess, by the time they got there they didn't care if the people were dead or alive I guess. That used to be one of the trips they would make.

(There was one in town, I'm not too sure about. I think, Zimmer had a beer garden in back of his saloon. That was on Chicago Avenue. That was all I knew about the gardens. Of course here the Bob White down here on the corner was a beer garden to an extent.

(It was a hotel too wasn't it also?)

Of course it has the porch all the way around it. That one out on Darmstadt Avenue that was the biggy. It was a real garden. They had the arbor, dancing, and music and all. Probably the people who stayed in town went to a saloon or the wineries.

(Tell me Carl, outside of Renault's how many other wineries were there?)

Renault's of course, Oberedsts. Boston Avenue I think.

(That sounds like a German name?)

They were German, Dewey. Then there were a few small ones but they were the bigger ones in Egg Harbor.

(What happened to the other wineries? Were they so small of what?)

Yes, they were just more or less home wineries so to speak, I don't know if they had to have licenses or not then.

(They made pretty good wine around here didn't they?)

Oh yes, very good

(There were quite a few here then. Did they have any kind of a wine festival here?)

Have you ever seen the Diamond Jubilee Book of Egg Harbor City and the Centennial Book?

(Yes, but I never looked at them that closely, are they in there?)

We have those books but their still packed up from moving when I get them out and come across them I'll loan them to you. I'll see that you get them. As a matter of fact, the one that has the story of Egg Harbor in it a lot of it is in German.

(Now about the glass business, do you know about how many glass places there were in town?)

As far as I know, just Tielockers and Liberty.

(What did Tielockers do just engraving?)

As far as I know just cutting or engraving.

(Where was he situated?)

Right where the house is now, on St. Louis Avenue, but originally that is the one that Anne and them were saying started in that old Cranberry shed back on Washington Avenue and the railroad. He started back there and then he moved over to St. Louis Avenue.

(I think you are forgetting one. How about Baldi?)

That is a newer one isn't it? How old is Baldi? Didn't Baldi work for one of the others? I really don't know which.

(Well, the old man built a factory. Engraving only now, not making glass but only engraving.)

Well, no one made their own glass.

(I have a strange feeling that one of them did, because Gramp worked for an outfit that made glass. I wouldn't know what Gramp could do otherwise. I think possibly Liberty may have had a furnace?)

Yes, I guess they did, I remember we used to pick up the slag.

(Well, they made some of the glass, not all maybe but some of it, cause Gramp was a gareler you know. There were only two things I know he could do, make molds and make glass. Baldi built his shop on Philadelphia Avenue behind where the soft ice cream stand is.)

That is more or less new. I don't think that goes back beyond World War II. I spent a lot of time there when Paul was a kid and Paul was born in 1949. I remember that building being built then.

(He was in business before that.)

Where?

(I don't know.)

Now it's a machine shop. I never knew it was glass in there.

(Do you remember anything at all about Liberty?)

Only the building.

(You don't remember the shop or the people that worked for them do you? It was evidently before the First World War, you were quite young then, they had the women cutting glass in there really in there.)

At that time I can remember Armistice.

(First World War Armistice?)

Yes, but I was only about seven or eight years old at that time so cut glass didn't mean a thing to me, only to drink out of it I guess.

(Do you remember in the First World War the talk about sabotage in New York of an ammunition plant at Black Tom. They made ammunition and it didn't explode and it was a terrible thing.)

I only knew about it but just heard it you know.

(Remember they think one of the Super Spies of Germany was responsible for that?)

How about out here at Tuckerton. They had that radio station.

(Tell us about it. I don't know about that? Is this the first or second World War?)

First, you know where Mystic Island is? Well, before the First World War a bunch of Germans built that wireless radio tower there near Tuckerton you can still see the blocks there. You go out Rader Road. They call it Radio Road now because of that you will see the big blocks that held the tower. It was an immense tower.

(What was it a sending unit?)

Yes, I don't know if there was any idea of war at that time but it was built before the war. The tower was built before the war. It was to send messages back and forth to Europe. Whether that was a pretense at the time now I don't know and then used for [unintelligible]. When we got into the war with Germany the U. S. confiscated it.

(Was that the most exciting thing In the First World War that happened around here? Were there any U boat landings here?)

No, not that I know of.

(Were there any ships that were torpedoed beached along here?)

No, not that I know of.

(Being such a German area, do you have any remembrance of how people felt like?)

People changed their name from Kaiser to Kaser. It was to get away from [unintelligible]. I think a lot of people were ashamed of Germany. The same as during the Second World War. We had an exchange student here with us in 1967 for a little while from Germany. He said, "We

in Germany don't hold it against you that you bombed us." If they were all like him they will have another Hitler. Those are my feelings.

(In the Second World War did you have any spy scares or anything like that around here?)

No, we all had to pull our window curtains and we had to paint the tops of our headlights. Atlantic City, of course, was dark. There was always talk about all these inlet places but nothing ever came of that.

(Did they have beach patrols all along the coast?)

Oh yes,

(Were they military or civilian do you know or remember?)

Some of both. What was that civilian group called now? Air-raid wardens. Civil defense. Over past Mays Landing. We had an incendiary bomb plant. I worked over there during the World War II. The National Fireworks it was called. In Mays Landing.

(There was another munitions place during the First World War where was that?)

That was in Belcoville. Then there was Amatole up on the pike up where the Troopers Barracks are. That also was a race track years ago. Amatole; a wooden track.

(Is there anything else that happened around here during the war? You know up in New York they caught spies like crazy because of the convoys going out you know and all the ships?)

Where NAFEC is now, that was a Navy Base and they trained pilots there.

(Did you have any other training areas around?)

Down on the other side of Marmora. It was called Palermo. That was a radar station.

(You didn't have any defense plants here?)

The only one was National Fireworks. We made incendiary bombs.

(I mean did you have any defense patrols to go out and intercept aircraft?)

Only back here. The Navy had a squadron. Then too they did a lot of practice and training.

(This Civil defense business. Did that affect almost all the people that were here during the Second World War who weren't in the Army? Do you know the older people?)

I really don't know. An awful lot of them were in.

(Did they do away with the traffic lights or have them shuttered?)

They were shuttered. So they wouldn't reflect.

(How about the broadcasts? Were they restricted on giving out the weather reports do you remember? That is another thing, they were restricted in our area.

No, I don't remember that.

(Carl, you said before that when you went to school, there was a store you went to down. near the school. Did you pay cash for everything or did you run a ticket there?)

No, we always paid cash.

(Most people ran tickets didn't they?)

They did and that was the downfall of the store. It had so many credit buyers that it couldn't exist. When Carl went to school over here they were all eight grades in one room with one teacher.

(I think you learned just as much didn't you?)

I guess so.

(You heard a little of the next class. You know if you forgot anything you could pick it up eh?)

These schools were very good for the children, yes.

(You didn't have any dancing or bands or art or that nonsense did you?)

We just had the basics.

(Once you had the basics what else did you need? You probably were able to read better when you got out of there than some college kids can today?)

I know some kids in High School who can't today.

(Some couldn't get into college because they couldn't read the examinations. That's outrageous.)

If you don't give a hoot then I guess you don't learn anything and, that is what the trouble is today. I think we had real teachers years ago who cared.

Now it is no reflection on them, they say the children have a learning disability.

(I think all the teachers I had never wanted to go home. They all put a 60 up on the blackboard in the corner and if they drew a line and your name was underneath there you were stuck for an hour after school. I don't think any of them ever wanted to go home.)

I know when we went down to school not so much up here in town but down there, we must have been better kids up here. Down there they were rough kids. The Germania kids were rough. The Cologne kids were good kids. Ask him about his school bus ride down to there. We had a horse and wagon. That was the school bus. The old guy had a sway back horse and all. It was an old top wagon you know what a top wagon is of course; the leather top is across it. That

is what he transported us in. The poor old nag was just about moving along. In the wintertime that old top wagon was so doggone cold we used to get out and walk.

(Really?)

We'd walk part of the way, get tired walking, get back in a little bit and so on.

(That is the forerunner of the station wagon. It had benches across didn't it?)

Yes, on the side it had benches across not this way but across.

(I've seen them both ways.)

Yes, both ways. Well he would drop us off at school and some of the bigger guys at that time, I don't know just how big they were, but the bigger ones would wait till he turned around to go home again and three or four of them would get hold of the front of the wagon and hold the horse for fun. Then during the warm weather I always rode my bicycle back and forth.

(You didn't have any sleighs down here then, horse drawn sleighs?)

No, South Jersey never got that much snow. It would snow and go away right away. I guess it wasn't really profitable.

(How about hay rides. Did you have them?)

Oh yes, hay rides were quite popular,

(Both sexes?)

Yes, Hay rides in the wagon and then hay rides in the trucks. They were quite popular.

(You people down here don't have any hills or mountains but did you use skis or snow shoes at all?)

No, we had ice skates though. When the ponds would freeze over.

(There weren't that many ponds around here though were there?)

If the pond was big enough, maybe a hundred foot in diameter we would skate on it.

(I guess if the fields got rained on and iced you skated on that?)

A number of times we skated up and down the fields here. We even skated on the road when it was glazed over.

(As a young fellow, did you go fishing?)

No, I didn't. I first graduated into fishing recently.

(You children didn't do much fishing then?)

No, we didn't for some reason I just never bothered.

(I have to ask you one question because it seems to be a question people would like to hear this twenty years from now. How many servants did you have at home?)

I don't know. I don't remember any.

(Any hired help at all outside of the field hands? No help in the house?)

That's all but mother had help in the house when she had her operation. They, Carl's parents, brought a couple of German girls from over there when they were over there in 1929. They brought them over to visit for a year. When their year was up they went back. One got married while she was here so she didn't stay in Germany very long she came back. Then the other girl came back and stayed with Carl's parents and helped around the house just enough to have a place to live. But then eventually she married a local fellow.

(Before we run out of tape, let me ask you, how about bathrooms in the house? Did you start out with outhouses? I presume you did or did you?)

To tell the truth John, I don't remember an outhouse. We had one but I think it was for emergencies. We still had the one in the house. Carl's dad was very much ahead of his time. He had a Delco plant. He had electric before electric came through here. Before that they had gas. Gas lights. He made his own electric and you made your own gas then too. When he originated that Black Diamond black berry everybody in Hammonton raised black berries so he made a dollar so to speak. They made out better than average. They had a generator, they used gasoline I guess, it turned the generator into gas, and it went through large pipes downstairs in three or four rooms. They didn't have it downstairs. You had to put aluminum on the big one. We used to have a big rake thing with a paper and you held it up there to lite it and it went swish.

(Did you have table lamps where the rubber hose went from the pipe into the lamp?)

No, we thought we were pretty modern.

(Carl, we really appreciate this. You did nearly two hours. It's hard to believe. We really appreciate it and if you ever want to hear this we will be glad to play it for you.)

The one thing you didn't mention is that we have one son. We only had one but if he heard this and he wasn't mentioned, I'm sure he would care.

(What business is he in, the plant business?)

No, he is a supervisor in the computer department of Atlantic City Electric Company.

(I also didn't mention the fact Carl, that you do Christmas arrangements and you do them very nicely and that you taught them on television and radio. You gave numerous exhibitions which I attended and which were excellent.)